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BSP STAFF CELEBRATING HARI RAYA OFFSHORE



Every year, after the moon sighting and the announcement of Hari Raya Aidilfitri is made, Muslim families start their preparation – rearranging furniture, decorating the house with colorful ketupats, ironing their outfits for the first day of Hari Raya, cutting and laying out various cakes, all while the children play with fireworks. Hari Raya Aidilfitri is a special time to spend with family and friends, strengthening family bonds and ties, visiting loved ones who you might only meet once a year.

Celebrating Hari Raya Aidilfitri with family and friends is always a joy however not everyone has the luxury to spend their first days with loved ones – BSP staff and contractors working offshore on Ampa 9, Fairley 4 and Champion 7 are no exception as they are tasked with ensuring that oil production continues, safely and reliably fuelling the nation. About 80% of the platform crews are Muslim. Some have missed out on the celebrations for several years but all of them have one understanding: that it is their duty and obligation to provide for their family and the country.

Despite being away, personnel working on these platforms celebrate their Hari Raya Aidilfitri, albeit briefly. During the eve of Hari Raya Aidilfitri, they might start with decorating their mess and ironing their baju raya so that they can don their outfits in the early morning. Traditionally, their celebration kicks off with the mass Takbir Raya prayer and the Sunnat Hari Raya prayer. After prayers, all the offshore personnel gather at their respective mess rooms and enjoy the Hari Raya cuisine on offer. With lots of different types of food prepared such as *ketupat*, *rendang*, *lemang*, *serunding*, *satay*,

asam pedas, lontong, kuih muih and so much more. Fathers will be face-timing their children, daughters skyping with their parents, wishing each other well and asking for forgiveness. The ambience of Hari Raya offshore is different yet comfortingly similar because even though you are not with your loved ones, you are with your offshore family.



Offshore personnel donning their 'Baju Cara Melayu' on the First day of Hari Raya

Nuramalina Samat, a C&A Technician on Fairley 4 mentions her favourite part of Raya offshore is Takbir Raya in the morning and opening up raya hampers with colleagues. "I am very proud to serve Brunei during Hari Raya. I come from a family of 5 and this is my 2nd time being away from them, I normally call them".



"I am proud to serve Brunei during Raya. Not everyone can accept the challenges of working on the 1st day of Raya. Being able to serve my country and giving the opportunity to celebrate, even briefly, means a lot. It gives me the feeling of satisfaction to know that I stand for my country and the people of Brunei," said Abd Rahman Mail, an Offshore Medic on Champion 7. "My greatest challenge is not being able to see my family and my 2 children on such a special occasion when they need my presence the most. I overcome it by not allowing myself to get too emotional and to concentrate on the job so that I can get back to them safely by the end of my shift."

Abd Rahman also shared that his favourite part of celebrating Raya offshore is celebrating it with his offshore family, performing Hari Raya prayers in the morning and still being able to wear Hari Raya attire. "This will be my 3rd Raya Offshore, and from what I can see, every year on the eve of Hari Raya, we will be busy decorating the mess rooms, the ladies will be arranging their kuih raya to be served the next day, and others would play Hari Raya songs and mingle until late at night".

Selamat Hari Raya to all our family and friends. During this Hari Raya, please always stay safe while you are celebrating. In the end, you and I will go home safely,"

Abd Rahman Mail, Offshore Medic, Champion 7

Hj Effindi Hussin, Complex Maintenance Lead from Champion 7 who has missed Hari Raya celebrations 11 times shared that his greatest challenge is controlling his emotions but he always reminds himself that he is working to provide for his family and for the country. "I miss seeing my wife, children and parents."

"Saya ucapkan Selamat Hari Raya. Maaf Zahir & Batin,"
Hj Effindi Hussin, Complex Maintenance Lead, Champion 7



Hj Zulkiplee Amit, NS Production Lead on Champion 7 shared 'I normally miss the gathering and celebrating with nice food prepared by my sisters and miss all the laughter and happiness. I've missed out on Hari Raya too many times that I've lost count but I always take the opportunity to skype with my family on the first day of Hari Raya.'

"We wish our friends and family a Happy Eid Mubarak,"
Hj Zulkiplee Amit, NS Production Lead, Champion 7



"Selamat Hari Raya Aidilfitri. Maaf zahir dan batin,"
Instrument Team N/S, Champion 7

Walmma Othman, Complex Production Lead shared that during his 32 years of service, he has missed Raya 8 times and he misses the joy of being with his 5 children. "I miss the gatherings and children but I need to carry out my duty and obligation as a shift worker," he added.

"Selamat Hari Raya Aidilfitri. Mohon Maaf Zahir dan Batin,"

Walmma Othman, Complex Production Lead, Champion 7



Selamat Hari Raya. Maaf Zahir dan Batin to all my family and friends. I would like to seek for your forgiveness from the tip of my hair to the tip of my toes. Mohon halalkan segala makan minum. Please forgive me should I have said anything wrong or may have hurt your feelings. Kindly allow me to serve my beloved country and InsyaAllah if allowable, let's celebrate Hari Raya together in the future."

Muhd Noorazry Nooralli, Production Operator, Ampa 9

When asked whether they feel proud to serve Brunei during Hari Raya, Zulaihi Besar replies "Yes, feeling the pride of being the 'back-bone' and the importance of doing our job well as frontline workers, continuing to generate money for Brunei at any time when required." During his 26 years of service, the last Hari Raya that he has missed was in 2012 when he was on Ampa 9.

"Always stay safe while celebrating Hari Raya"
Zulaihi Besar, Offshore Installation Manager, Fairley 4



Khairuddin Zainuddin, Lead Permit Coordinator shares that the greatest challenge is working with minimum crew on board the platform and being away from his family. "To overcome the challenge, there is proper planning for crew who spend the festive season offshore so there is no compromise to safe production and emergency response capabilities," he added.

"I would like to wish all my family and relatives, Brunei Shell Joint Venture (BSJV) staff, WOP staff and

to everyone else in Brunei a Selamat Hari Raya, Maaf Zahir dan Batin. Always stay vigilant and always be safe especially when driving on the road. You and I will have a Safe Hari Raya!!
Khairuddin Zainuddin, Lead Permit Coordinator, Fairley 4

What do you miss about celebrating Hari Raya onshore? Dk Noramanina Bahriah bt Pg Hj Md Tamit shared, "This is my first time away from my family and I'm sad that I'm absent from family gatherings. What I will miss is shaking hands, asking for forgiveness from my parents and my 11 siblings early in the morning on the first day of Raya. And, receiving my green packets!"



"Salam Aidilfitri to all Muslims and stay safe!"

Dk Noramanina Bahriah bt Pg Hj Md Tamin, Production Operator, Fairley 4

Thank you to the men and women working on Hari Raya. Your dedication and commitment to safely fuelling Brunei's future is greatly appreciated and we thank you for your contribution to the Nation. Selamat Hari Raya Aidilfitri to everyone in Brunei! For those celebrating onshore – buckle up, stay safe and enjoy your well-deserved time off!

End

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